

# HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

## Store Your Stuff in “Outer Space”

(NAPSA)—If you find yourself running out of “inner space” in your home or garage, it may be time to use some of the “outer space” in your backyard and put up a prefab building.

Every year, more homeowners choose this economical alternative over a room addition or rented space. It has become so easy to erect some prefab buildings that many people do it themselves—even those who don’t consider themselves particularly handy.

According to Dick Dekker of Miracle Steel Structures, Inc., America’s leading manufacturer of this type of building, there are many good reasons to consider adding a prefab building to your property. “We’ve sold them to people for almost every conceivable purpose, from chinchilla farms to churches.”

However, he’s quick to add that most people need buildings for more conventional uses like these listed here.

### **A workshop or place to house a hobby**

Woodworkers, artists, and collectors of all types are good candidates for prefab buildings. Typically, they need a place to work and extra room for the equipment used in their pastime.

### **A place to store something large and valuable**

Many people like the idea of storing their RVs, boats, classic cars, trucks or even airplanes on their own property. They feel that keeping them close to home improves security, protects their investment and provides immediate access. It’s also better than leaving them outside or paying someone else year after year.

### **New quarters for a home-based business**

When owners of a home-based business outgrow their garage or basement, they often choose to put up a building. People involved in repair, light manufacturing or distribution businesses find that prefab buildings provide economical work and storage space just a few steps from home. There may also be tax advantages to owning your own building.

Dekker says that most of the



**Prefab buildings are an attractive way to utilize your “outer space” for a work area or additional storage.**

time people buy a building for one reason and end up using it for several. “We get lots of letters from people telling us that putting up a building was the smartest thing they’ve ever done. The building has so many uses and frees up room in their house and garage,” he said.

If you think your own “outer space” might work well for a prefab building, below is a list of tips to help you in your search.

If you would like information on Miracle Steel Structures, Inc., the nation’s leading manufacturer of straight wall prefab building systems, call 1-800-436-3129 or visit their Web site at [www.miracletruss.com](http://www.miracletruss.com).

### **Important tips to help you select the right metal prefab building:**

- 1) Only consider manufacturers with 15+ years of experience both making and selling the same product.
- 2) Insist on ICBO and BOCA quality certification to ensure compliance with building code evaluation standards.
- 3) Require that all welds be inspected by Welding Inspectors certified by the American Welding Society.
- 4) Narrow your choices to buildings specifically designed for easy, do-it-yourself assembly so you won’t need to weld, cut metal or use heavy equipment.
- 5) Look for a “clean span” building design without ceiling rafters and support posts so you’ll get 100 percent usable space.
- 6) Make sure the manufacturer has an in-house engineering department and a 24-hour helpline. It’s important to be able to have your technical questions answered in a timely manner.
- 7) Ask about color selections. Coordinating with the color(s) of your home or other structure(s) enhances the appearance and value of your property.